and M. Albert Thomas—gave resolute support to their French military staffs. Their action was in-

remarkable change of attitude.

previous attitude. They both were and always had been zealous advocates of the "way round." They never believed in the policy of attrition. From January, 1915, onwards they had both advocated consistently an attack on the weaker enemy front. Why did they swing round so completely at the Rome Conference? I will endeavour to give some explanation of this *volte-face* in the ensuing chapter.